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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1954

together with the

REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

J.S.RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H.B.GARDNER, M.R.San.I., Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

R.P.MAY, Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

J.WARD, Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Chief Clerk:

G.H.MASON

Junior Clerk:

Miss D.E.COOK

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree
May, 1955

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of your District for the year 1954.

The report shows that once again the year has been one of good health.

Sanction has been given for the putting in hand of the schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal for Takeley and Little Hallingbury and it seems that sanction for the same work at Barnston may not be long delayed.

The main problem at present is the formation of a scheme for the dealing with and clearance of dwellings of the lowest category. Little can be done without provision being made for the rehousing of tenants, who, it seems must be mostly rehoused by the Council in their houses.

In the meantime, every encouragement is being given to owners to reconstruct their property with the aid of grants. There must, for many years, remain small cottages without many modern conveniences. As these will be the only houses in the future that can be let at low rents, they will remain of value to the district, but they must be kept under constant supervision and maintained in a condition that is not prejudicial to good health.

The writing of this report constitutes my last duty after having served the Council for over two years. May I, therefore, take the opportunity of thanking the Committee for the kindness and consideration that they have shown me and commend to them those members of their Staff with whom I have had such a happy association.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.S.RANSON

Medical Officer of Health

1.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,511
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	19,250
Number of houses according to rate books (of which 218 were empty on 10th October)	...	6,250
Rateable value	... ...	£97,192
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	...	£400

	Total	Male	Female	Dunmow R.D.C.	England & Wales
Live Births					
Legitimate	297	155	142		
Illegitimate	14	6	8		
Still Births	7	2	5		
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				16.15	15.2
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.05				16.957	
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births				22.01	24.0

Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)	192	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	9.9	11.3
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of .82	8.1	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	7	
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	22.5	25.5
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.8	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	142.8	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS DURING 1954

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under 1 year	2	5
1 and under 2 years	-	1
2 and under 5 years	-	-
5 and under 15 years	-	2
15 and under 25 years	-	3
25 and under 35 years	-	1
35 and under 45 years	1	6
45 and under 55 years	3	9
55 and under 65 years	7	9
65 and under 75 years	23	25
75 and upwards	64	31
Total	100	92

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1954

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the Classification is given under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 19

	Cause of death		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	3	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	13	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	-	1
16.	Diabetes	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	6	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	12	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	9	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	16	23
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	10	7
22.	Influenza	...	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	2	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	-	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	8	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	1	3
35.	Suicide	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-
		All causes	101	91

2.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1954:-

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	1	-
Whooping Cough	106	-	-
Measles	9	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	21	1	-
Dysentery	3	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	14	-	-
Totals	165	4	-

Food Poisoning

There were no notifications of Food Poisoning during 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS - CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5 years	-	2	-	-
5 and under 10 years	-	-	1	-
10 and under 15 years	1	-	-	-
15 and under 20 years	-	1	-	-
20 and under 25 years	1	-	-	1
25 and under 35 years	2	-	-	-
35 and under 45 years	-	-	-	-
45 and under 55 years	4	1	-	-
55 and under 65 years	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	1	1	-	-
Totals	9	6	1	1

Of these cases 4 were cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary	...	Male	1
		Female	-
Non-pulmonary	...	Male	-
		Female	-
		Total:	1

3. PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

National Assistance Act, 1948, section 47

During the year the Council considered the circumstances of the following aged people who were in need of proper care and attention:-

a man aged 71 years at Broxted

a man aged 82 years at Stebbing

a woman aged 78 years at Thaxted

two women aged 86 and 79 living together at Thaxted.

The man at Broxted entered St James' Hospital, Saffron Walden and the man at Stebbing entered St Michael's Hospital, Braintree, both voluntarily.

Application was made to the Courts for an order under Section 47 for the removal of the woman at Thaxted. The order was granted and she was taken to Haymead's Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, for a period of three months. During her absence her cottage was cleaned up and she went home after her discharge from hospital.

Application was also made to the Courts for a Section 47 order for the two women living together and the order was granted. The elder woman was blind and was removed to Haymead's Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, and the other was taken to St James' Hospital, Saffron Walden, where they still remain. Although neither wished to be moved it is understood that they have settled down in their new homes.

Public Health Department
The Council Offices
Dunmow

May, 1955

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the annual report of the work of the Department during the year of 1954.

Once again the year was a record one for the completion of houses, 185 houses being completed which was an increase of 33 over the previous year. The total number of private houses completed, 64, was the highest for any year since the war and points the way to the increased part that private building is now taking in house erection especially since the end of building licensing in November. 121 Council houses were completed showing an increase of 10 over the previous year.

With the decrease in council building expected in 1955 will come the re-starting of a slum clearance campaign and the placing of greater emphasis on the repair and improvement of existing dwellings, under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The Minister has asked for a detailed statement on the progress made on slum clearance to be included in this and future annual reports as was done before the War.

The new borehole at Armitage Bridge, Thaxted, came into operation during the year and main laying under Contract P.L.16 was completed. Work commenced on the new 250,000 gallon water tower at High Easter and also on the final main laying contract, P.L.17, under the Council's Comprehensive scheme. These contracts will complete the Council's proposals with the exception of water softening installations for which Ministry approval was still awaited.

The modernisation of Great Dunmow Sewage Works and the enlargement of Felsted Sewage Works was completed during the year. It was not possible to start actual construction work on any sewerage schemes by the end of the year although a number of them had reached contract document stage. It is hoped that starting dates for the Upper Chelmer Valley; Takeley; Little Hallingbury and Barnston schemes will be given in 1955.

The inspection of houses for the slum clearance and repair schemes mentioned above continued.

The meat inspection duties of the department increased during the year with the abolition of meat rationing in July. With the Bacon Factory and the 7 private slaughter-houses it was necessary for some 79,500 carcases to be inspected to maintain the 100% inspection of all animals killed.

There was no change in the staff of the Department during the year.

Details of the work carried out by the department during the year are given in the following pages.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council for their confidence and the staff for their loyalty and assistance during the year.

I remain, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H.B.GARDNER

Chief Sanitary Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The water supplies in the area were adequate and were obtained from the Council's boreholes at Mill Lane, Great Dunmow, and Borough Bridge and Armitage Bridge, Thaxted. The parishes of Hatfield Broad Oak, Great Hallingbury and Little Hallingbury were supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Company.

19 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical examination and these were found to be satisfactory. Reports on four of these samples by the Counties Public Health Laboratories appear below:-

Dunmow Pumping Station supply

Tap in Dunmow pumping house - Borehole supply for public use

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance:	Clear and bright	Turbidity:	Nil
Colour:	Nil	Odour:	Nil
pH	7.2	Free Carbon Dioxide:	29
Electric Conductivity:	710	Total Solids:	475
Chlorine present as Chloride:	45	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate:	310
Hardness: Total	325	Carbonate 310	Non-Carbonate 15
Nitrate Nitrogen:	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen:	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen:	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed:	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen:	0.000	Residual Chlorine:	0.07
Metals: Absent			

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of Colonies developing on Agar:	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	... per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable no.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. coli (Type 1)	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	... ml	... ml	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are normal for the Dunmow Pumping Station and the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

2nd December, 1954 Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Thaxted Pumping Station supply (Borough Bridge)

Tap off main - 46 High Street, Dunmow

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with very few mineral particles Turbidity: less than 3
Colour: Nil Odour: Nil
pH: 7.3 Free Carbon Dioxide: 21
Electric Conductivity: 760 Total Solids: 510
Chlorine present as Chloride: 36 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 300
Hardness: Total 430 Carbonate 300 Non-carbonate 130
Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen: Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.013 Oxygen Absorbed: 0.10
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000 Residual Chlorine: Absent
Metals: Absent

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of Colonies developing on Agar:	4 per ml.	4 per ml.	... per ml.

	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100ml
Bact. coli (Type 1)	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and it is of very satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

23rd July, 1954 Counties Public Health Laboratories

Thaxted Pumping Station supply (Armitage Bridge)

Thaxted (Armitage Bridge borehole) pumping station

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with a very slight yellow-brown deposit. Microscopic examination shows amorphous ferruginous mineral particles with fibrous organic debris. Turbidity: less than 3
Colour: Nil Odour: Very faintly earthy
pH: 7.1 Free Carbon Dioxide: 33
Electric Conductivity: 690 Total Solids: 460

Chlorine present as Chloride: 26 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 290
Hardness: Total 390 Carbonate 290 Non-Carbonate 100
Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen: less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000 Oxygen absorbed: 0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000 Residual Chlorine: absent
Metals: Iron: 0.20, other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of colonies developing on Agar:	18 per ml.	21 per ml.	... per ml.

	Present in	Absent from	Probable no.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes, apart from the disadvantages of the high hardness.

22nd December, 1954 Counties Public Health Laboratories

Herts and Essex Water Company
Supply

Tap (main), 3 Dunmow Road, Hatfield Broad Oak

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with very few mineral particles Turbidity: less than 3
Colour: Nil Odour: Nil
pH: 7.3 Free Carbon Dioxide: 21
Electric Conductivity: 660 Total Solids: 440
Chlorine present as Chloride: 26 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 300
Hardness: Total 360 Carbonate 300 Non-Carbonate 60
Nitrate Nitrogen: 0.0 Nitrite Nitrogen: less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000 Oxygen Absorbed: 0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000 Residual Chlorine: absent
Metals: Iron 0.03, other metals absent.

Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
No. of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	... per ml.

	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100ml

Bact. coli (Type 1)	-	ml.	100	ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	ml.	...	ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

26th May, 1954 Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Main Water Supplies

On the following page will be found a schedule showing by parishes the houses and estimated population which have main water supplies. The number of houses and estimated population supplied by standpipes are also shown.

POPULATION IN EACH PARISH ON MAIN SUPPLY

Parish	No. of houses	Est. Pop.	Houses on Main supply	Est. pop. on Main Supply	Houses with Standpipes	Est. P supplie Standpi
Aythorpe Roding	62	201	36	126	1	3
Little Bardfield	75	212	57	180	1	3
Barnston	99	310	81	283	2	7
Broxted	181	495	147	514	1	4
Great Canfield	124	348	96	306	5	17
Little Canfield	109	333	88	288	3	10
Chickney	11	30	-	-	-	-
Great Dunmow	1171	3671	1047	3440	9	30
Little Dunmow	130	376	96	326	8	27
Great Easton	249	716	206	668	5	17
Little Easton	118	331	83	289	5	17
Felsted	640	1990	523	1830	8	27
Great Hallingbury	250	782	157	549	5	18
Little Hallingbury	274	876	250	800	4	16
Hatfield Broad Oak	644	1983	511	1788	6	21
High Easter	212	585	165	498	12	44
High Roding	120	393	106	351	4	13
Leaden Roding	98	260	93	240	2	[illegible]
Lindsell	74	227	70	210	6	2[illegible]
Margaret Roding	64	205	55	185	4	1[illegible]
Stebbing	352	1065	272	946	17	5[illegible]
Takeley	386	1369	311	1283	5	1[illegible]
Thaxted	677	1890	614	1760	2	[illegible]
Tilty	24	69	9	31	-	
White Roding	106	353	81	283	-	
	6250	19070	5154	17174	115	39

Waterworks Undertaking

Quantities of Water pumped:

Dunmow Waterworks	...	40,134,000 gallons
Thaxted Waterworks	...	140,140,900 gallons
		180,274,900 gallons

Repairs and connections:

No. of new domestic connections to mains	...	166
No. of new metered supplies	...	24
No. of repaired services	...	83
No. of repaired mains	...	13

Main extensions:

The following extensions were made to the Council's water mains during the year:-

Thaxted Pumping Station to Armitage Bridge Borehole (6")	1050 yards
Thaxted Pumping Station to Dunmow Road, Thaxted (6")	1220 yards
White Roding to Philpots (3")	2600 yards
Cutlers Green Tower to Broadfans (6")	1270 yards
Wises to Whiteheads (3")	220 yards
Rosemary Close, Dunmow (3")	75 yards
The Crescent, Leaden Roding (3")	143 yards
Cranham Road, Broxted (3")	26 yards

Rainfall

Details of the year's rainfall are given at the end of the Report on page 38.

Dunmow and Thaxted Pumping Stations

Your plants at these stations worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

The borehole pump No.2. at Thaxted was lowered during the year to accord with the No.1. pump which was lowered in 1950.

Comprehensive Post War Water Scheme

New Borehole at Armitage Bridge, Thaxted

The pumping machinery was installed during the year and the rising main completed and the borehole came into operation. It is an 18" diameter bore sunk to a depth of 360 feet and the output of the electric submersible pump is 7,500 gallon per hour. It provides an additional source of supply for the 23 miles of mains laid and being laid under Contracts P.L.16 and P.L.17.

Poplar Water Tower, High Easter

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the construction of this 250,000 gallon water tower, to provide additional storage facilities in the Southern part of the District, and work duly commenced at Poplar Farm, High Easter. By the end of the year the outer columns had been erected up to a height of 14 feet

Main laying Contract P.L.16

This small contract of main laying was completed during the year with the completion of the rising main from Thaxted Pumping Station to the new Borehole and the laying of a 6" main from the Pumping Station to Dunmow Road, Thaxted.

Main laying Contract P.L.17

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the commencement of this contract during the year. It comprises some 18 miles of mains as follows:-

6" - Cutlers Green Tower to Broadfans Farm, Great Easton
6" - Tilty to Cox Hill, Great Easton
4" - Cox Hill to Duck Street, Little Easton
4" - Church End, Dunmow, to Bran End, Stebbing
3" - Tile House Farm to Gransmore Green, Felsted
3" - Watch House to Stones Farm, Stebbing
3" - Axe and Compasses to Loves Farm, Aythorpe Roding
3" - Axe and Compasses to Keeres Green, Aythorpe Roding
3" - White Roding to Philpots, Hatfield Broad Oak

4" - Hounslow Green to Shouldo Hall, Barnston

6" - Station Road, Dunmow

3" - High Roding to Bury Farm, High Roding

3" - Bartholemew Green, Felsted

3" - Newbiggen Street to Fox & Hounds and Terriers Farm, Thaxted

3" - Langthornes to Little Langthornes, Little Canfield

3" - Gransmore Green to Greenfields Farm, Felsted

3" - Wises to Whiteheads, Hatfield Broad Oak

By the end of the year the extensions from White Roding to Philpots and Wises to Whiteheads had been completed and work was proceeding on the length from Cutlers Green Tower to Broadfans Farm.

This contract will complete the whole of the Council's proposals for main laying contained in their comprehensive scheme.

Water Softening

The remaining proposals in the comprehensive scheme are the Water Softening Plants at Dunmow and Thaxted Pumping Stations but at the end of the year the Ministry had not made known their decision in this matter.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Pollution of Streams

Streams which have been polluted for years continued to be polluted. The main areas of pollution were:-

Chelmer Watershed

River Chelmer at Thaxted, Duton Hill, Great Easton and Little Easton.

Barnston Brook at Barnston.

Lee Watershed

Pincey Brook at Takeley Street.

It is hoped that this pollution will cease when the Upper Chelmer Valley Barnston and Takeley schemes are authorised and carried out.

Extensions of Sewers

The following extensions were made to the Council's sewers during the year:-

Chaffix, Felsted	440 yards
Bran End Fields, Stebbing	190 yards
Cranham Road, Broxted	73 yards

Connections to Sewers

During the year 125 premises were connected to the Council's sewers as shown below:-

Broxted	6	Felsted	43
Hatfield Broad Oak	2	Hatfield Heath	8
Stebbing	13	Thaxted	27
Great Dunmow	25	Little Dunmow	1

Sewage Works

Satisfactory effluents were obtained from the sewage works at Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath. Towards the end of the year satisfactory results were also obtained from the works at Great Dunmow and Felsted which were then settling down after completion of constructional work. Thaxted works continued to yield unsatisfactory effluents and it is hoped that these works will soon be abandoned. The works at Great Easton were not in use and the disposal plants at Little Canfield and Broxted were satisfactory. Unsatisfactory effluents were obtained from the plant at Duton Hill. The pumping stations at Church End, Dunmow; Cage End and Feathers Hill, Hatfield Broad Oak; Bran End, Stebbing and Sewards Hall, Felsted, were working satisfactorily.

Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme

Stebbing Sewerage Scheme - Contract 7

Notices were served on the owners of properties in Stebbing under section

47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to convert earth closets to water closets and connect to the new sewer where this had not been done. The work was in progress at most of the properties by the end of the year. The work of enlarging Felsted Sewage Disposal Works to take the flow from Stebbing was completed. The Council agreed to make a new access road to these works; install an additional pump and convert the works to electricity and the Ministry gave authority for this work to be carried out. It is intended to obtain a price for the work from the successful tenderer for the Upper Chelmer Valley scheme.

Great Dunmow Sewage Disposal Works - Contract 8

The work of re-building and modernising these Works was completed during the year.

Upper Chelmer Valley Scheme - Contract 9

Tenders for this scheme were obtained in 1951 but the starting date was cancelled. During 1954 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government gave authority for the work to proceed and tenders were re-invited and the lowest of Messrs W. & C. French Ltd was submitted to the Ministry for approval. Whereas the earlier tender was for the main sewer down the valley, the pumping station and rising main only, this latest tender included the lateral sewers in Great Easton and Duton Hill and the Ministry asked for further reports and documents supporting this larger scheme. These were being prepared at the end of the year with a view to all the work, including the repair of the existing ex-R.A.F. sewage works at Great Easton, being carried out as one scheme. This will include the demolition of the Thaxted Works.

Barnston - Contract 10

Tenders for this scheme were obtained in 1952 but the Ministry would not allow it to proceed at that time. In reply to a request that permission be given for the work to commence sent at the end of the year they replied asking for

additional information and it is hoped that this means that the work will be started in 1955.

Takeley and Little Hallingbury

The completed documents for both of these schemes were sent to the Ministry during the year and in December an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry held an investigation at the Council Offices into these schemes and visited the sites. Their decision was awaited at the end of the year.

White Roding

Agreement was reached during the year on the sites for the proposed sewage works and pumping station and the documents and drawings for the scheme were being revised and completed by the Council's Consulting Engineers at the end of the year.

Causeway End, Felsted

The Ministry wrote to inform the Council that this scheme would be considered for approval during the financial year 1956/7. It is a gravity sewer from the hamlet to the existing works at Felsted.

High Easter

The site for the pumping station was acquired during the year and agreement had been reached on the site for the sewage disposal works. The documents for the scheme had been submitted to the Ministry and only the County Council's comments and the District Valuer's report on the works site were awaited to complete the proposal.

Willows Green, Felsted

Despite a year of negotiations with land owners it was still not possible to obtain a site for the proposed sewage disposal works by the end of the year.

High Roding

Negotiations continued at the end of the year with land owners for sites for the proposed sewage works and pumping station.

Monk Street, Thaxted

Documents for this scheme were completed and submitted to the Ministry by the end of the year. It is hoped that the work will be carried out in conjunction with the Upper Chelmer Valley sewer to which it will connect.

Bannister Green, Felsted

Documents for this small scheme, which is in effect an extension to the existing sewer network in Felsted, were received and submitted to the Ministry for approval. No reply had been received by the end of the year.

Little Easton

The documents for this scheme which comprises the sewerage of Duck Street and Butcher's Pasture have been received and at the end of the year the comments of the County Council were awaited so that the scheme could be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath

The plans and documents for this scheme were received but it had not been possible at the end of the year to submit the scheme to the Ministry or to the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board owing to the failure in finding a willing land owner to sell a site for the Pumping Station. The scheme comprises the abandonment of Hatfield Broad Oak works; the piping of the flow from Hatfield Broad Oak to Stonebridge, Hatfield Heath; the sewering of Chelmsford Road, Hatfield Heath to Stonebridge; the erection of a pumping station and the connection of both flows to the existing works at Hatfield Heath.

Other Schemes

The Council's Consulting Engineers were engaged in the preparation of schemes for Broxted, Lindsell, Little Bardfield, Leaden Roding, Margaret Roding, Great Hallingbury and Aythorpe Roding at the end of the year.

Although most of the paper work for the comprehensive sewerage scheme was completed during 1954 it was not possible for any work of actual construction to be started. There were frustrating delays in the acquisition of land for sewage works and pumping stations and with regard to the schemes in the Essex River Board area we were awaiting their decision as to whether they would require sand filters. It is hoped that it will be possible for a start to be made on Contracts 9 and 10 and on Takeley and Little Hallingbury schemes during 1955.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of house refuse was maintained during the year. The work was done by a crew of 6 men with two rear loading compressing vehicles and an open truck. The truck was taken off the road and a new rear loading compressor wi a diesel engine was on order at the end of the year. The collection is once weekl in the Lighting Areas of Great Dunmow, Felsted and Thaxted, and once fortnightly in the remainder of the District. 8,604 yards of refuse were collected compared with 7,986 yards in 1953. There were 185 extra houses to collect from during the year. The refuse was tipped in the disused gravel pits at Merks Hill, Great Dunmo by arrangement with the owner and he arranged for bull-dozing as necessary. Durin suitable weather, ponds at Felsted and Little Canfield were filled.

SALVAGE

The collection of waste paper was continued during the year and bali was carried out in the garage in the Council Yard. 70 tons 8 cwts of waste paper were collected and despatched to the Mills at Purfleet and credits for £479.2.4. were received. This is £120 more than in 1953. As the price per ton has increase and the demand for waste paper is growing the collection of paper is being stimulated with a view to 100 tons being collected in 1955.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors made 4,064 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below:-

Complaints received	...	197
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	265
Housing applications verified	...	108
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	1,249
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	269
Places of Amusement	...	3
Schools	...	8
Offensive accumulations	...	46
Water supplies	...	115
Drainage	...	167
Sewage Disposal	...	126
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail Closets	..	74
Ditches	...	42
Refuse disposal	...	18
Infectious Disease prevention	...	27
Factories and Workshops	...	44
Shops	...	81
Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards	...	656
Other Meat and Food Visits	...	84
Cafes and restaurants	...	20
Dairies	...	24
Hotels and public houses	...	8
Rodent Control visitsand re-visits	...	362
Conversion of Earth Closets	...	67
Petroleum Acts	...	4

Nuisances detected and Notices served

Nuisances detected	...	104
Informal notices served	...	28
Notices outstanding 1st January, 1954	..	64
Notices outstanding 31st December, 1954	..	56
Statutory Notices served	...	6
Legal proceedings	...	Nil

SHOPS

The inspection of shops under the Shops Act, 1950, was carried out during the year but no formal action was necessary. There were 173 shops entered in the Council's register. One Certificate of Exemption was granted during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary under this heading during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences are situated in Great Dunmow and Thaxted. An income of some £80 was received from them during the year.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Arrangements were made for the burial of one person during the year under the provisions of section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This brings the total to 11 since the passing of the Act, in which arrangements for burial were made by the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disinfections after cases of Infectious Disease were carried out as under:-

Private houses	...	5

RODENT CONTROL

The following are details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Details	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agric-ultural	Business premises	Total
nises inspected as a result of ification	-	75	6	9	90
nises inspected as a result of vey under the Act	8	5	3	2	18
ber of properties found to be ested with rats:					
Major infestations	-	-	-	-	-
Minor infestations	8	36	6	9	59
ber of properties found to be iously infested with mice	-	5	-	8	13
ber of infested premises treated the Council's Sanitary Inspectors	8	41	6	17	72
ber of notices served under Section f the Act	-	-	3	-	3

182 re-visits were also carried out.

In addition to the above, treatments were carried out at the refuse s at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow, which are privately owned.

The Council's mobile sewerage gang carried out tests and treatments n percentage of the public sewers in Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Felsted, tle Dunmow, Great Dunmow, Thaxted, Little Canfield and Broxted. The systems in six the villages were free from infestation and are to be left until 1956. Those in Great now and Thaxted are to be treated again during 1955.

VERMIN

38 premises were disinfested during the year after complaints of infestation by either fleas, bugs, flies or ants. The standard form of treatment was spray with a 5 per cent solution of D.D.T., or Gammexane Smoke Generators. No major problem occurred. Disinfestation of bedding was carried out as necessary in the plant maintained by Braintree R.D.C. or at Haymead's Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM

At the end of the year there were 140 licences issued for the storage of petroleum (including 29 for re-sale), and 2 licences for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories 1937, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	8	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	36	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	124	44	-	-

ASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	-	-	-
rowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
sonable temperatures (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
quate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
ary conveniences (S.7)					
insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
unsuitable or defective	5	3	-	-	-
not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
offences (not including ces relating to out-rs)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	6	-	-	-

ORKERS

There were no out-workers in the district during the year.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

At the end of the year, in addition to seasonal workers in agriculture, sites were used at:-

Parish	Sites	Vans	Tents	Huts	Adults	Childr
Aythorpe Roding	2	3	2	2	8	5
Barnston	1	1	-	1	2	1
Broxted	2	2	-	1	3	1
Little Canfield	4	5	-	1	9	3
Great Dunmow	8	8	-	-	17	4
Felsted	5	5	-	4	9	2
Great Hallingbury	4	4	-	1	7	1
Hatfield Broad Oak	1	1	-	-	2	2
Hatfield Heath	3	9	1	1	17	12
High Roding	1	1	-	-	2	-
Leaden Roding	2	2	-	-	3	-
Stebbing	5	13	1	2	30	13
Takeley	12	45	-	4	80	31
Thaxted	7	7	-	1	10	6
White Roding	4	4	1	2	10	1
Totals	61	110	5	20	209	8

60 of the sites have access to main water supply and 1 site has a water supply from a well. The sanitary accommodation is 52 earth or chemical closets, and 10 water closets.

Approximately one-half of the vans are situated in the two parishes of Stebbing and Takeley.

HOUSING

New building

New building during 1954 was as follows:-

Number of Council houses completed	...	109
Number of houses erected by Housing Associations	...	12
Number of private houses completed	...	64
Number of Council houses under construction at end of year	...	34
Number of Council houses approved but not commenced at end of year	...	10
Number of private houses under construction at end of year	...	35
Number of private houses with plans approved but not commenced at end of year	...	30

Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants

At the end of the year improvement grants for 50 private dwellings had been approved totalling £12,541.12.4. Improvement grants had also been approved for two cottages owned by the Council.

Housing applications

There were 375 applications for Council houses at 31st December, 1954.

Building Licensing

The control on building licensing was lifted on 10th November, 1954. During the years that the Council were responsible for the issue of licences, 2755 licences were issued and the total monetary value was £806,852.

Council houses

The total number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was:-

Pre-War houses	675
Cottages purchased post-war	6
Post-War houses	648
	1329

3 houses had been sold to tenants - 1 post war house, 1 pre war house and 1 pre war cottage.

Total new building since the War

The total number of houses built since the War in the District is:-

Council houses	...	648
Housing Associations	...	12
Private houses	...	255
Essex County Council	...	18
		933

Housing Acts - Slum Clearance

As instructed in various Ministry of Housing and Local Government circulars and in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a start was made during the year on slum clearance with a view to the preparation of a scheme to be submitted to the Minister in 1955. The tabular statement required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, as extended, is given below:-

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	228
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	408
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	136
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	262
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	24
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	31

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A - Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-		
(a) By owners	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-		
(a) By owners	...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C - Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwellings houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	1
(3) Number of written undertakings accepted	...	3

D - Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0

E - Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished	...	3

F - Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949:-

(1) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	...	0
(2) Demolition orders determined and Closing orders substituted under Section 3(2)	...	0

G - Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

(1) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	...	0

4. Overcrowding - Part IV, Housing Act, 1936

No action was taken under this Part during the year.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following Acts, which affect the duties of the Council, were passed in 1954:-

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954

Town and Country Planning Act, 1954

Food and Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1954

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Byelaws

During the year the Council made Byelaws under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them. These were confirmed and came into operation on 8th December, 1954.

In December the Council passed a resolution to make Byelaws for Sanitary Conditions, Management, and Keeping of Records for Knackers' Yards. The draft Byelaws had been approved by the Ministry by the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

at Inspection

With the abolition of meat rationing in July there was a substantial crease in this branch of the Department's work. Slaughtering was carried out gularly at the Dunmow Bacon Factory and at the 7 private slaughterhouses in the strict.

rcases inspected and condemned:	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	806	5	128	840	77,783 +
Number inspected	806	5	128	840	77,783
diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	170
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	-	2	12	8,956
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.08%	-	1.57%	1.43%	11.73%
erculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	53
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	-	1,768
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.98%	-	-	-	2.34%

\+ Pigs which arrived dead or died in lairs were examined for scheduled diseases but were not inspected for food.

chers' Shops

250lbs of carcase meat was inspected and condemned in butchers' shops ing the year.

Deadweight Certification Centres

The Ministry of Food approved the slaughterhouse at Hatfield Heath owned by Mr N.G.Reynolds as an ordinary deadweight certification centre for pigs in Novembe of last year. The duties of certification are carried out by the Council's Meat Inspectors and all the pigs certified receive any collective guarantee payment which may be due. This payment is intended to bring the returns to the industry as a whole up to the standard price fixed at the Annual Review. With certain exceptions all clean fat pigs which weigh at least 3 score deadweight and are fit for human consumption are eligible for the guarantee payment.

It is likely that further slaughterhouses may become certification centre

Slaughter of Animals

The number of licences at the end of the year was:-

Private Slaughterhouses	...	8
Knackers' Yards	...	1
Licensed Slaughter-men	...	32

Other Food

During the year the following foodstuffs were found upon inspection in shops etc to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned:-

Baby food	82 cartons	Meat	25 tins
Milk	40 tins	Vegetables	8 tins
Fruit	27 tins	Fish	2 tins
Preserves	6 jars	Fruit juice	2 tins
Cheese	12lbs		

Game Dealers

6 persons were licensed to deal in Game during the year.

Milk

24 inspections were made of the Dairies in the District and 9 samples of

milk were taken for analysis. These were satisfactory.

There were 18 persons registered in the District as Distributors of Milk and 9 Dairies (not being Dairy Farms) were also registered. Milk Dealers' licences were in force as under:-

to use special designation "Tuberculin tested"	...	9
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	9
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	6

Supplementary licences

to use special designation "Tuberculin tested"	...	3
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	3
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	1

Ice Cream

There were 73 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Acts for the storage and sale of ice cream in the District. 7 samples were taken for analysis and these were satisfactory. No manufacture of ice cream was carried on in the District.

Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in operation at the end of the year was 11. No unsatisfactory conditions existed other than occasional neglect of limewashing which was dealt with as a routine matter.

Food Premises

There were 19 premises in the District registered for the manufacture or preparation of sausages; pressed, pickled and preserved food, and fish frying.

Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels and Public Houses

There were 16 cafes and restaurants, and 73 licensed premises (hotels and public houses) in the District. Inspections were made during the year but no formal action was necessary.

Food Hygiene

There were no cases of food poisoning in the District during the year.

No clean food campaigns were carried out during the year.

The Council adopted Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, in 1951.

RAINFALL

The rainfall as recorded at Thaxted Waterworks during the year is given below:-

		inches
January	...	.8
February	...	1.9
March	...	1.73
April	...	.12
May	...	2.61
June	...	1.91
July	...	2.932
August	...	3.32
September	...	1.66
October	...	1.82
November	...	3.85
December	...	1.98
		24.632 inches

The heaviest falls were .9 inch on 26th July and 25th October.

The longest period without rain was the 26 days from 7th April to 2nd May.